supply and orders are finalised on the basis of a techno-economic evaluation on a competitive basis and after negotiating the price, wherever necessary. As such, there appears to be no cause for Government's intervention in the matter.

Privatisation of Mines under National Mineral Development Corporation

4335. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Miniser of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India N.M.D.C. Workers' Federation, Hyderabad, has unanimously adopted and passed a resolution on 26th July, 1994 or there about and submitted the same to Government in connection with the proposed privatisation of the mines under National Mineral Development Corporation Limited;

(b) whether Government have since considered the resolution and have communicated their decision to the Federation;

(c) whether the company has acted in the matter much against Government' wishes and decisions taken by the Board of the Corporation which tend towards benefits reaching to outsiders;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what further action is being contempleted to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The iron ore available at Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit 11-B already leased to NMDC is reportedly best suited for production of sponge iron in gas- based plants. It is proposed to take up development of deposit 11-B as a joint venture with one of the private sector entrepreneurs who are operating or setting up a gas-based sponge iron plant in the country and who already have an assurance from NDMC to meet a substantial part of the plant's requirement of iron ore.

It is proposed to hold a meeting shortly with representatives of the concerned Unions to clarify various apsects of the proposal to them.

Moderanisation of Rourkela Steel Plant

4336. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government for the modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the amount spent on the modernisation of that Steel Plant;

(c) whether any external assistance is being received for the modernisation of that plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE TO THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government approved the proposal of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for the Renovation and Technological Upgradation (Modernisation) of its Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) in October, 1989 at an estimated cost of Rs. 2461 crores which was revised ot Rs. 3954 crores on 12.5.1992. This modernisation project is presently under implementation.

(b) The total amount spent by SAIL for this modernisation till July, 1994 was Rs. 1291.31 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of external assistance towards part financing of this modernisation project are indicated below:—

(in million)

(i)	German mixed Credit from Kreditanstalt fure Wiederaifbau (KFW)	DM 287.13
(ii)	French Protocal Credit from French lending institutions	F.Fr. 68.43
(iii)	Supplier's credit from Tiazhpromexport of Russia	US $ 23.89

Setting up of a Pig Iron Plant in Madhya Pradesh

4337. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has made an agreement with Neco Group of industries to set up a pig iron plant at Siltara in Raipur District;

(b) if so, what is the total amount required to set up the plant;

(c) what would be the annual production of the plant; and

(d) the number of people of the area likely to be provided employment in the plant?